

## Message Text

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44-S

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-07 L-03

PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /050 W

----- 073150

P R 101058Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6108

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0339

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: GOI SEEKS PATROL VESSELS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0159 (031803Z FEB 76) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GOI EXPECTED TO REQUEST USG TO LEASE OR SELL PATROL  
VESSELS FOR USE AGAINST BRITISH WHO NOW HAVE 5 FRIGATES WITHIN

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THE DISPUTED WATERS AND WHOSE TRAWLERS ALLEGEDLY CONTINUE TO FISH

IN THE RESTRICTED CONSERVATION ZONES. NORWAY HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO GOI UNOFFICIALLY THAT IT WOULD NOT (RPT NOT) WELCOME SIMILAR REQUEST AND, IN FACT, WOULD TURN IT DOWN IF ASKED. ALTHOUGH DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY GOI TO EVENTUALLY ENHANCE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD CAPABILITY TO PATROL NEW FISHERIES LIMITS WHEN BUDGET PERMITS, PRESENT METHOD AND TIMING INITIATED BY JUSTICE MIN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON, DURING ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY OF PRIME MIN AND WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF REST OF GOVT, IS AN ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO EMBARRASS USG AND CALL PUBLIC ATTENTION TO ALLEGED INACTION OF USG IN CURRENT COD WAR. IN A NAIVE ATTEMPT TO BLACKMAIL USG JOHANNESSON, WHEN ANNOUNCING HIS REQUEST, IMPLIED HE WILL SEEK USSR ASSISTANCE IF USG REFUSES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESS RELEASE EVENING MARCH 5, JUSTICE MINISTRY ANNOUNCED LETTER SENT THAT DAY TO FONMIN ASKING HIM TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST TO USG FOR SOME FAST PATROL VESSELS "SUCH AS THE ASHEVILLE TYPE," CONTENDING THAT SUCH A REQUEST IS LEGITIMATE WITHIN THE MEANING OF POINT E OF AGREED MINUTE OF 1974 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (REFTEL PARAS 1 & 2). THE FACT THAT THE FONMIN, THE PRIME MIN, THE CHIEF ICELAND DEFENSE NEGOTIATOR AND LEGAL ADVISOR (HANS ANDERSEN) AND AMBASSADOR IRVING ALL HAVE PREVIOUSLY TOLD JOHANNESSON HIS CONTENTION RE MOU FALLACIOUS, MAKES JOHANNESSON'S INTENTION OBVIOUS. UNFORTUNATELY, JOHANNESSON'S PLOY HAS WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT. IN BRIEF CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA STAFF AND FONMIN ON MARCH 8 AND 9 PRIOR TO RECEIPT BY MFA OF JOHANNESSON'S LETTER, AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED MFA TURN DOWN REQUEST OR AT LEAST PIGEON-HOLE IT "FOR FURTHER STUDY" ON GROUNDS IT CAN ONLY BACKFIRE ON ICELAND, WILL MAKE ICELAND LOOK RIDICULOUS, WILL INTENSIFY AN ALREADY TENSE EMOTIONAL SITUATION, AND WILL MAKE FISHERIES SETTLEMENT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. AMBASSADOR PROPOSED AS A MINIMUM THAT FONMIN DISASSOCIATE REQUEST FROM MOU. IN THIS REGARD, MARCH 9 MORGUN-BLADID REFUTED JOHANNESSON'S INTERPRETATION OF MOU BY QUOTING AN INTERVIEW PAPER HAD WITH FONMIN AGUSTSSON ON DECEMBER 3, 1974 IN WHICH AGUSTSSON AT THAT TIME EXPLAINED THAT POINT E RE COOPERATION WITH COAST GUARD "ONLY INVOLVES CLOSER COOPERATION IN FIELD OF RESCUE EFFORTS, INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, INCREASED ICELANDIC PARTICIPATION IN RESCUE OPERATIONS WHICH THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT FOR ICELANDERS."

3. GOI LEADERS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE ONLY RESPONSE POSSIBLE  
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UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES BUT, NEVERTHELESS, TO STALL FOR TIME, OR TO GET OFF THE HOOK WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC, FONMIN MAY TRANSMIT THE REQUEST TO USG THROUGH KROYER IN WASHINGTON.

4. BRITISH INTEREST SECTION AND NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR HERE HAVE QUERIED THIS EMBASSY REGARDING MOU AND HAVE BEEN ADVISED THERE IS NO COMMITMENT EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED IN MOU TO PROVIDE PATROL BOATS TO ICELAND.

5. LOCAL PRESS AND JUSTICE MINISTRY REPORT THAT IF USSR ASSISTANCE SOUGHT, COAST GUARD CAPTAINS WANT THE "MIRKA" CLASS PATROL VESSEL. ACCORDING TO JANES FIGHTING SHIPS, MIRKA IS 1100 TONS AND 265 FEET LONG VERSUS 225 TONS AND 164 FEET LONG FOR ASHEVILLE. MIRKA TAKES A CREW OF ABOUT 100. PRESENT COAST GUARD GUNBOATS REQUIRE CREW OF 23.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS RELEASES, COAST GUARDS, FISHING BOATS, FISHING DISPUTES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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